



Public Health Bulletin

A Publication of the Public Health Department, Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director

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Department of Health Services Reorganization

Senate Bill 162 (SB 162) establishes the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) within the existing Health and Human Services Agency and statutorily transfers certain responsibilities from the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) to the new CDPH, effective July 1, 2007. At the same time, CDHS is re-named as the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

There are several benefits to the reorganization of the CDHS into CDPH and DHCS:

- To provide more focused leadership in public health and health care financing at the state level.
- To streamline management of complex program components along functional lines.
- To create a more effective public health infrastructure in California resulting in decreased illness, injury, and death rates.
- To provide greater protection for California residents in the event of an act of bioterrorism or other major public health emergency.
- To increase accountability, responsiveness, effectiveness and transparency for the public health and health care purchasing

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Avoiding Summer Heat Injuries and Preventing Childhood Obesity

Summer heat waves can be dangerous. Older people are at the highest risk. People normally cool their bodies by sweating, but under some conditions, sweating isn't enough. Very high body temperatures may damage the brain or other vital organs. Some conditions that can limit the ability to regulate temperature include old age, obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, poor circulation, sunburn, and drug and alcohol use. Summertime activity, whether on the playing field or the construction site, must be done in a way to aid the body's cooling mechanisms and prevent heat-related illness.

For the entire fact sheet on preventing summer heat injuries, visit: www.dhs.ca.gov/opa/factSheets/pdf/ps18.pdf. It is a useful hand-out for patients and families. The fact sheet is also available at www.slopublichealth.org in the Public Health Bulletins section.

Childhood Obesity Task Force

In February 2006, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors endorsed the creation of a Childhood Obesity Prevention Task Force.

The Task Force was charged to develop a countywide strategic action plan to guide collaborative efforts in preventing childhood obesity and its related chronic diseases. County leaders funded the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation (SLOCCF) to convene and facilitate the Task Force through the planning process.

The task force recently released a report titled "Community Action Plan to Increase Healthful Eating and Regular Physical Activity Among Children in SLO County." The report can be accessed at the following link: www.sloccf.org/forms/Giving-CN-ChildhoodObesity.pdf.

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Syringe Exchange Program a Success

In its first six months of operation, the County's first syringe exchange program "User Friendly," collected over 2,000 dirty syringes.

In July 2006, the Board of Supervisors approved the program designed to reduce the spread of the HIV and hepatitis. Numerous studies show exchange programs to be effective at reducing the spread of HIV and hepatitis, without increasing drug use or crime. The program opened in November 2006, and offers a one-for-one exchange of up to 30 used syringes for anyone 18 years or older.

This program not only helps prevent the spread of HIV, it lets people who use drugs know that their lives matter. "More than just syringes, the exchange offers drug users a safe, non-judgmental place to ask questions related to health concerns, drug treatment, and social services," said Fred "Bull" Chaney, Executive Director of Gatehelp, Inc., a local non-profit agency that operates the exchange program. The program is staffed by a part-time Gatehelp employee and several trained volunteers.

In the first six months of operation, approximately 25 people exchanged syringes. Many of them come every week to exchange up to 30 syringes. One of the goals of the exchange is reduce the number of used syringes on the streets; already this seems to be working. More syringes have come in (2,000) than have gone out (1,800).

In addition to syringes, clients can take brochures, condoms,

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Manager Appointed for Health Systems

Kathleen Karle was recently hired as the program manager of the Health Systems Division of the Health Agency. The mission of Health Systems is to ensure access to health care for all eligible adults who cannot afford to pay their medical bills. Health Systems includes the County Medical Services Program (CMSP), as well as other programs that reimburse physicians and hospitals for uncompensated medical care.

Karle is a former member of the County Health Commission, and has extensive work experience in the health care field. She was the director of education and disease management at Mission Medical Associates, the community education and outreach coordinator at Marian Medical Center, and most recently the health services director at Peoples' Self-Help Housing. You can reach Karle at 781-4929.

Health Services Reorganization (cont.)

functions of state government.

- To provide visibility on important health care issues to providers, local health departments, federal government, legislature, advocates, press and general public.
- To recruit and retain top quality staff for the new Departments.

Current day-to-day operations for the Infectious Diseases Branch will continue under the new CDPH after July 1. For more information about the CDHS reorganization, including organization charts and frequently asked questions, please go to the following Web site: www.dhs.ca.gov/home/organization/reorganization.

In mid-June, CDHS will send out specific information about new e-mail addresses, Web site links, mailing addresses and other information that you will need to communicate with the CDPH and DHCS programs. We will also post this information on the above Web site for reference.

First Annual Central California Hepatitis Symposium

Thursday, August 23, 2007
Embassy Suites, San Luis Obispo

This all-day forum will address medical and treatment issues as well as train people affected by hepatitis (patients, family members, physicians, counselors, etc.) to advocate and effect change for improved hepatitis education and funding on both local and statewide levels.

Sponsored by the California Hepatitis Alliance
and the San Luis Obispo Hep C Project
www.slohepc.org (805) 543-HEPC (4372)

Mumps Outbreak in Eastern Canada, Potential Export to California

As of May 18, 2007, there have been 331 confirmed cases of mumps (272 in Nova Scotia, 45 in New Brunswick, two in Prince Edward Island, 11 in Ontario and one in Alberta). Most cases have been university students. While infectious with mumps, a young adult from New Brunswick visited Southern California from late April to early May. An investigation of his known close contacts is underway.

Health care providers should continue to remain alert for suspected mumps cases, conduct appropriate diagnostic testing, and report cases to the county public health department. For more information, go to the Public Health Department Web page at www.slocounty.ca.gov/health/publichealth.htm and print a copy of the Mumps Case and Outbreak "Quicksheet."

National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month. Now is a great time to remind family, friends, coworkers, and those in the community to catch up on their immunizations. August is a time when parents are enrolling their children in school, students are entering college, and health care workers are preparing for the upcoming influenza season. For future information on the National Immunization Awareness Month, please visit www.cdc.gov/nip/events/naiaw/.

Sign Up for Immunization Program Notification

Every quarter, Immunization Collaborative meetings and trainings are available in San Luis Obispo County. If you would like to attend these meetings or join the Immunization Collaborative, please call Liz Sandoval at 788-2357 or e-mail her at esandoval@co.slo.ca.us. We will also send you quick updates for critical issues on vaccine shortages, recalls, and changes.

Next Immunization Broadcast Set to Air on August 9

The next Satellite Immunization Update from the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases will be held on Thursday, August 9 from 9 - 11:30 a.m. at the Public Health Department conference room at 2191 Johnson Avenue in San Luis Obispo. To register, go to: www2a.cdc.gov/phtnonline course SB1198.

Syringe (cont.)

alcohol wipes, band-aids and other materials for reducing harm caused by drug injection. HIV and hepatitis testing are also available through the health department.

After the first year of operation, the Health Agency will report back to the Board of Supervisors on the progress of the syringe exchange.

The program operates Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Public Health Department parking lot at 2191 Johnson Avenue in San Luis Obispo.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases in California

Reported cases with onset in 2007, provisional as of April 30, 2007

	0-4 years	5-17 years	18+ years	Unknown	YTD Cases 2007	Annual 2006
H. Influenza B	0	0	0	0	0	3
Hepatitis A	3	15	133	0	151	750
Hepatitis B	0	0	82	0	82	361
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	6
Mumps	0	0	2	0	2	20
Pertussis	26	23	34	1	84	1,451
Rubella	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tetanus	0	0	1	0	1	8

San Luis Obispo County Reported Cases of Selected Communicable Diseases - 2007

Disease	Jan.-March	April	May	June	Total 2007	Total 2006
AIDS	0	5	4	2	11	10
Amebiasis	0	0	0	0	0	1
Brucellosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	12	2	4	6	24	54
Chlamydial Infections	178	40	49	61	328	567
Coccidioidomycosis	60	8	19	13	100	147
Cryptosporidiosis	5	1	1	2	9	23
E. Coli 0157:H7	1	0	0	0	1	2
Giardiasis	2	0	0	0	2	21
Gonorrhea	19	4	0	2	25	42
Hepatitis A	0	1	1	0	2	12
Hepatitis B	11	0	2	3	16	69
Hepatitis C Acute	2	0	0	0	2	6
Hepatitis C Chronic	96	49	19	42	206	452
Hepatitis, Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	0	0	0	2
Measles (Rubeola)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis - Total	1	0	1	6	8	28
Meningitis - Viral	6	0	1	5	12	21
Meningitis, H-Flu	1	0	0	0	1	0
Meningococcal Disease	0	0	1	0	1	3
Pertussis	1	3	7	4	15	75
Rubella	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	8	1	4	0	13	42
Shigellosis	0	0	2	0	2	20
Syphilis - Total	7	1	3	1	12	9
Tuberculosis	1	0	0	1	2	2
West Nile Fever	0	0	0	0	0	1
W. Nile Virus Neuroinvasive	1	0	0	0	1	1



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